

DUXBURY PIER

The brown tower at Duxbury Pier in Plymouth Harbor, erected in 1871, is locally known as Bug Light. The fixed 870 candlepower red light is 35 feet above high tide. Duxbury Pier is located on the north side of the main channel which leads to Duxbury, Kingston, and Plymouth.

Without question Keeper Fred Bohm's record as a life saver here is an outstanding one. In one year he rescued ninety persons, including thirty-six Girl Scouts. Two typical rescues took place in 1931 and 1935. On September 14, 1931, he rescued two persons from a small boat which became disabled near the light station in the evening. One of the men had to be given first aid treatment. Keeper Bohm, aided by his assistant George Bell, on May 27, 1935, rescued two men from a small boat, full of water, which was drifting by the light.

Keeper Bohm's most unusual rescue came at supper-time one night when the wind was blowing a fifty-mile gale. Hearing terrified screams, he ran out on deck and saw a woman trying to swim toward the light from an overturned boat.

"I launched my boat and rowed toward her," Bohm told me later, "but before I could reach her she had gone down, caught in the devil-tail sea weed the place was full of. I threw off my clothes and jumped over after her. I swam and then waded into shallow water with her unconscious in my arms. Getting her up into the lighthouse, I noticed that her bathing suit was gone. She was in bad shape, and did not respond to first aid. I worked on her for four hours. Finally her eyes began to open, and she gained consciousness."

"Where are my clothes?" were her first words.

"I don't know, but you are lucky to be alive," was Keeper Bohm's reply to the girl whose life he had saved. By midnight the girl was safe ashore, wearing borrowed clothing.